

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 39 has been amended to overcome the informality.

Each of the independent claims has been amended to specify that the polymer coating is non-self supporting thereby to distinguish the claims from the cited prior art.

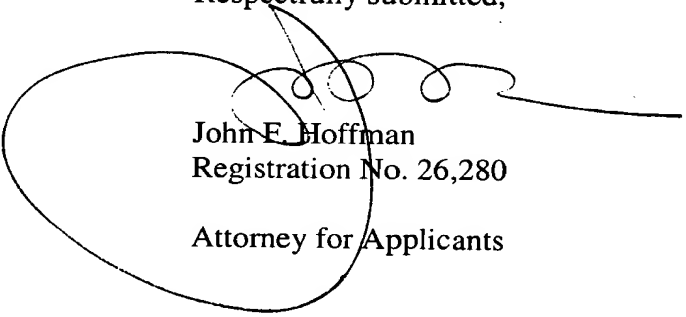
Verlinden '674 very clearly teaches the combination of a thin glass layer with a polymer layer **that is self supporting**. There is no disclosure whatsoever, nor even a suggestion, that a non-self supporting coating be utilized and in fact, Verlinden '674 specifically teaches away from this. Although Takagi et al '649 discloses coating a glass substrate with a polymer layer, Takagi is neither in possession of nor discloses the concept of utilizing a very thin glass such as disclosed in Verlinden '674 and in the present application. It is precisely the combination of the very thin glass layer and a non-self supporting polymer coating that is the essence of the present invention and neither of the cited references discloses this. Verlinden teaches away from such a combination and there is no recognition of the very thin glass/polymer coating combination by Takagi et al '649.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that none of the claims is obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 103 over a combination of Verlinden '674 and Takagi et al '649.

Application Serial No. 09/869,975
Amendment dated January 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated August 29, 2003

Once the Examiner has received and reviewed the present amendment, it is requested that she telephone the undersigned to schedule a telephone interview if the application is not now in condition for allowance. The writer can be reached at 260-460-1692.

Respectfully submitted,



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JFH/nw

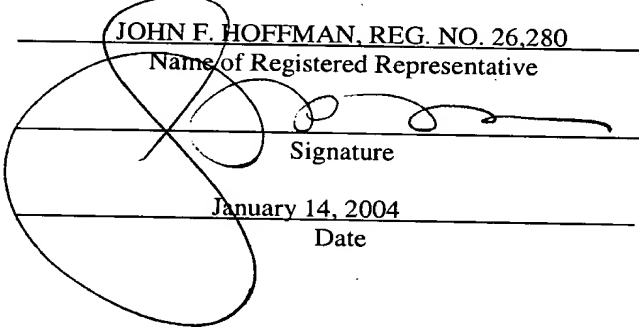
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: January 14, 2004

JOHN F. HOFFMAN, REG. NO. 26,280
Name of Registered Representative



Signature

January 14, 2004
Date